




TENNESSEE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
*Division of Special Education*  
5th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Schools  
Special Education Supervisors

FROM:  Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: Employment Standards, Speech-Language Teachers

DATE: April 8, 2003

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The State Board of Education approved to amend Rule 0520-1-2-03, Employment Standards, Speech - Language Teacher, at a board meeting on April 28, 2000. The approved standards are attached.

In reference to (11)(a) of the rule, teachers who are employed after June 30, 2000 may be hired only in those school systems which have made a good faith effort to have the most qualified teachers and have determined that there is an insufficient number of teachers with master's degrees in speech-language pathology. School systems, which have hired teachers under this provision, must complete Attachment A, included with this memorandum.

In reference to (11)(b), teachers who are employed prior to June 30, 2000 who hold a bachelor degree with a valid Tennessee teacher's license must achieve a master's degree or the equivalent to the master's degree in speech-language pathology by July 1, 2010. School systems who employ teachers under this provision must complete Attachment B, included with this memorandum.

Please submit Attachments A and B to your Management Consultant. If all of your Speech-Language Teachers have a Masters, please submit a letter stating such.

Please submit these forms by September 12, 2003. This information will be required annually.

If you have any questions, call your Management Consultant or Nan McKerley at 615-741-7796. Thank you for your cooperation.

jf/bt  
Attachments (2)  
cc: Nan McKerley  
Management Consultant  
Regional Directors  
Regional Resource Center Coordinators

## Employment Standards - Speech Language Teacher

### Rule 0520-1-2-.03 (11)

#### (11) Speech-Language Teacher.

- (a) A speech-language teacher employed after June 30, 2000, shall hold a valid Tennessee teacher's license with the appropriate endorsement and shall have a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Teachers with a bachelor's degree may be hired only in those school systems which have made a good faith effort to hire the most qualified teachers and have determined that there are an insufficient number of teachers with a master's degree in speech-language pathology. Teachers hired under this provision must take satisfactory progress toward achieving a master's degree within three years.
- (b) A bachelor's level teacher of speech-language with a valid Tennessee teacher license with the appropriate endorsement employed prior to June 30, 2000 must make satisfactory progress toward achieving a master's degree or the equivalent to the master's degree in speech-language pathology by July 1, 2010.
- (c) The equivalent to the master's requirements shall include the following:
  - 1. Successful completion of fifteen semester hours of graduate credit in the areas of speech-language pathology, audiology, speech, language, and hearing sciences. None of these semester hours may be credits earned for clinical practicum;
  - 2. Fifteen continuing education units in speech-language pathology earned from sources approved by the Department of Education. None of these units shall have been earned prior to January 1990. Additional graduate semester hours, up to fifteen, in speech-language pathology may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
  - 3. One hundred hours of practicum experience under the supervision of a teacher with a master's degree in speech-language pathology or who holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence.

#### (12) Speech-Language.

Individuals providing services to students with speech-language disabilities shall hold a teacher license with a speech-language endorsement, be in a speech-language pathologist clinical fellowship, or be licensed as a speech-language pathologist by the Board of Examiners of Speech Pathology and Audiology.



Attachment A  
Speech-Language Teachers Employed after June 30, 2000  
Without a Master's Degree

School System \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe the efforts you have made to hire the most qualified speech-language teachers for your school system:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List the names of speech-language teachers employed after June 30, 2000 who do not hold a master's degree and document what he/she is doing this school year (2002-2003) to make satisfactory progress toward achieving a master's degree within three years of date of employment. (Use additional paper if necessary)

Name

Date of Employment

The information reported on this attachment is accurate and documentation is available for review to support this.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Directors Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please submit this form to your Management Consultant by September 12, 2003.

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Attachment B  
Speech-Language Teachers Employed Prior June 30, 2000  
Without a Master's Degree

School System \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

List the names of speech-language teachers employed prior to June 30, 2000 who do not hold a master's degree and document what he/she is doing to achieve a master's degree or the equivalent to the master's degree by July 1, 2010. (Use additional paper if necessary.)

Name

The information reported on this attachment is accurate and documentation is available for review to support this.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Directors Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please submit this form to your Management Consultant by September 12, 2003.

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